

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in this application:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (new): A method for treating valvular regurgitation comprising the steps of:

advancing a catheter intravascularly to a cardiac valve to be treated, the catheter having a distal tip coupled to an energy transfer element, the cardiac valve having an annulus;

positioning the energy transfer element adjacent a portion of the annulus of the valve to be treated via movement of the distal tip of the catheter;

transferring energy to the annulus to heat the annulus and modify the geometry of the annulus sufficient to reduce valvular regurgitation.

Claim 3 (new): The method of claim 2 wherein the energy is RF energy and the energy transfer element is a RF electrode.

Claim 4 (new): The method of claim 2 wherein the energy transfer element is positioned to sequentially treat multiple portions of the annulus.

Claim 5 (new): The method of claim 2 wherein the cardiac valve to be treated is the tricuspid valve.

Claim 6 (new): The method of claim 2 wherein the cardiac valve to be treated is the mitral valve.

Claim 7 (new): The method of claim 2 wherein the cardiac valve to be treated is the aortic valve.

Claim 8 (new): The method of claim 2 wherein the distal tip of the catheter approximates the shape of the annulus.

Claim 9 (new): The method of claim 2 wherein the step of advancing a catheter intravascularly to a cardiac valve to be treated comprises the step of advancing the catheter intravascularly from cardiac the heart valve to be treated.

Claim 10 (new): The method of claim 2 wherein the step of advancing a catheter intravascularly to a cardiac valve to be treated comprises the step of advancing the catheter intravascularly from above the cardiac valve to be treated.